To

His Grace the

Duke of Leeds,

Marquis of Caermarthen,

EARL of DANBY,

Viscount Latimer & Dumblaine

Baron Osborne of Kiveton & Baronett;

& KNIGHT of the most noble Order of the GARTER &c.

This Little Work is

Dedicated

with all due deference

and Submission by

His Grace's

most obedient & obliged

humble Servant

J. Sprange.

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A Perspective View of Tremont Row N.B. N.P.

THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS GUIDE;

or

An Account of the ancient and present STATE of that PLACE,

To which is Added a particular Description of the

Towns and Villages, Remains of Antiquity,
Gentlemens Seats, Founderies, &c. &c.

within the Circumference of Sixteen Miles.

Mount Pleasant.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS,
Printed and Sold by J. Sprange, at his Circulating Library.
Sold also in LONDON, by T. Becroft Bookseller Peter Nosser Row.
MDCCLXXX.

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PREFACE.

NO pains have been ſpared, nor expences regarded, to make the following work inſtructive and entertaining to the public, particularly thoſe who viſit Tunbridge Wells in the Summer Seaſon.

The Hiſtorical Account of Tunbridge Wells publiſhed ſome years ſince, was a work of merit, and judiciouſly arranged, according to the ſtate of the place at that time, and the bad condition of the roads round it, whereby a deſcription of the neighbouring Towns, Seats, and Monuments of Antiquity, (a few only excepted) where rendered unneceſſary to be deſcribed; but, the Amuſements and Regulations of the place, having undergone a thorough change ſince that time, and the roads leading every way from it, become exceedingly good, from being made turnpike, this little work therefore comprehends a ſhort Deſcription of every Place, Building, or Antiquity, within the circumference of Sixteen Miles.

For the perfection of which, the moſt valuable materials have been collected from authentic Re-

 cords,

cords, the best esteemed Authors, and the venerable Repositories of Ancient Manuscripts searched, to present the public with a copious detail of historical facts.

As the generality of persons are apt to be struck with reverential awe and pleasing melancholy, at the gloomy prospect of mouldering ruins, or standing monuments of antiquity; and as this country, but particularly the neighbourhood of Tunbridge-Wells, affords, in a very ample manner that solemn pleasure to reflecting minds; it has been judged proper to insert a concise account of whatever merits the attention of the Antiquary, the Curious, and the Pensive. This GUIDE *is likewise meant to accompany Families in their Airings. A* MAP *of the Roads comprehending the same distance round the Wells, which was published merely for the accommodation of the Company since the alteration of the roads, and which may be purchased separate, will be found a very useful Appendage.*

The hurry in putting this to the press, may have subjected it to some few errors, and incorrectness of expression, which it is hoped the candid public will overlook; as the Publisher flatters himself that the Plan of it will be found so calculated, as to answer every purpose intended.

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TUNBRIDGE-

THE TUNBRIDGE-WELLS DIRECTORY.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE are many traditional accounts of the first discovery of those celebrated springs of chalybeate water, now so universally known by the name of Tunbridge-wells. And that there should be some miraculous stories amongst others, cannot be an object of wonder to those who know, that the origin of places, as well as most of the discoveries that have been useful to mankind, were, in the dark ages of superstition and priestcraft, generally ascribed to the extraordinary interposition of some avaritious saint, whose credit the monks of the time found themselves interested to advance.

And this not only gave rise to the multitude of fabulous incidents that have attended almost every popular discovery, but had also left so strong an impression in the breasts of our ancestors, that even the banishment of popery could not totally eradicate their fondness for miracles, and their violent propensity to swallow the absurd tales of designing knaves.

This might be illustrated by many instances from history and observation; but, as it is a fact so obvious, that few will take upon them to deny it, I rather chuse to begin immediately the relation of the story I have undertaken, than needlessly employ my time in disproving absurdities: it is, however; requisite to premise, for the satisfaction of my readers, that the story I have been speaking of, and am now hastening to relate, is not only better attested than any other on the same subject, but is also by much the most admissible, because it is the only one unattended with miraculous, or, at least, very improbable incidents.

It is true, there are no corroborating circumstances to be produced from history, or antique

antique monuments, to aſcertain the truth of the following narrative, which is chiefly gathered from verbal information; and therefore I dare not take upon me to prove the whole to the ſatisfaction of a nice critical enquirer; but as the perſons from whom I have it are, or were, people of integrity in the common concerns of life, no ways biaſſed by intereſted views to relate falſehoods, and above all immediately deſcended from thoſe who were living at the time, and principally concerned in theſe tranſactions, I cannot entertain the leaſt doubt of the truth of it myſelf.

The firſt diſcovery of the medicinal water at Tunbridge-Wells.

DUDLEY Lord North was a diſtinguiſhed nobleman in king James's court, or rather in the court of Prince Henry, his ſon, where he entered into all the gallantries of the times with a vivacity and ſpirit, which however entertaining to others, was attended with very diſagreeable conſequences to himſelf, ſince it was not only deſtructive to his fortune, but ruinous to his conſtitution alſo.

This

This young nobleman had reached his twenty fourth year, when he fell into a lingering, consumptive disorder, that baffled the utmost efforts of medicine, and absolutely deprived him of all capacity for enjoying those pleasures which hitherto he had too frequently indulged. In this melancholy situation it became necessary for him to live more regularly than he yet had done; and, in order the better to enable him to fall into a new plan with facility, it was judged expedient to separate him from the scenes of pleasure, in which he must unavoidably continue to be engaged, while he remained in the vicinity of the court: upon this principle, his friends and his physicians advised him to retire into the country, and try the efficacy of that last remedy, change of air, for the re-establishment of his constitution.

In consequence of this judicious advice, his lordship, in the spring of the year 1606, made Eridge-house * the place of his retreat.

* Eridge-house is about two miles from Tunbridge-Wells; and is mentioned in the following manner by the late Mr. Aaron Hill in a letter to Mr. David Mallet:

" 'Twas an obliging wish you sent me—" all the real pleasures of retirement."—" That actual happiness once, about thirty years ago, I was on the very verge of, in the neigh-

Eritdge

Eridge was then a hunting-ſeat belonging to Lord Abergavenny, and has everſince continued in the poſſeſſion of his noble deſcendants; though it is now reduced to a plain farm-houſe. The building is an ancient gothic ſtructure, that appears, notwithſtanding its preſent ruinous condition, to have been an agreeable retirement from the attendance of a court. The ſituation is in the higheſt degree romantic, the gardens were elegantly diſpoſed in the taſte of that age, the ſoil dry, the air pure and healthful and no country can afford finer riding; ſo that on the whole, one can hardly conceive an idea of a place more properly adapted to reſtore health to a conſumptive habit: but then, to counterbalance theſe advantages, it was ſituated in one of the moſt ſavage parts of the county of Suſſex, and, by its diſtance from all neighbourhood, ſecluded its inhabitants from all intercourſe with the reſt of mankind.

" bourhood of the rocks and trees you correſpond with. There
" is a place called Eridge-park, belonging to lord Abergavenny,
" and an open, old, appropriated forreſt of the name of Water-
" down, that butted on the park incloſure. There was alſo
" near it then a houſe called Eridge-houſe. The park was an
" aſſemblage of all nature's beauties—hills, vales, brooks,
" lawns, groves, thickets, rocks, water-falls, all wildly noble
" and irregularly amiable."

Hill's Works, vol. II.

Lord

Lord North was advised to continue in this mansion during the whole summer, but the wild aspect of the country, and the unsocial situation of the place, were so incompatible with the lively dispositions of this gay young courtier, that he soon grew weary of his retreat. And, in this disposition of mind, he formed a resolution of returning to town long before the expiration of the appointed time, unless he should experience those salutary benefits from the air, which his physicians had flattered him with the hope of receiving.

However, his lordship, at the repeated instances of his friends, and in order to give the country a fair trial, was prevailed upon to continue yet another six weeks at Eridge; when, finding his disorder rather increased than diminished, and particularly that his spirits were greatly lowered, he was satisfactorily convinced hat the air alone was a very insufficient counterpoise against the effects of the dreary solitud e in which he was immersed, and consequently would go but a little way towards restoring hi health to its pristine state: his lordship therefore, rejecting all sollicitation to remain an y onger here, abruptly quitted this retired mansion, and began his journey to London.

Thus

Thus was this young nobleman travelling to the great metropolis, in a more desperate and melancholy condition than ever, being deprived of the flattering hopes that his sanguine friends and his physicians had inspired, and with no other prospect in view but that dismal one of a grave in the first bloom of manhood, without in the least suspecting that, in leaving this country, he was flying from the remedy appointed by providence for the cure of his disorder.

But, fortunately for him, his road lay directly through the wood in which these useful springs were concealed from the knowledge of mankind; so that, when his lordship came upon the spot, at the beginning of his journey, and while he had the day before him, he could not well pass by without taking notice of a water, which seemed to claim his attention, on account of the shining mineral scum that every where swam on its surface, as well as on account of the ochreous substance which subsided at the bottom, and marked its course to a neigbouring brook. His lordship accordingly observed these uncommon appearances, the meaning of which he could not instantly comprehend;

prehend; however, they induced him to alight from his carriage, in order to examine it more attentively; and at the ſame time he ordered one of his attendants to borrow a little veſſel from the neighbouring hovel, that he might taſte it: and the peculiar ferruginous taſte of the water not only convinced Lord North, that it held its courſe through ſome undiſcovered mine, contained in the dark cavities of the earth, but alſo gave him room to fancy, that it was endued with ſome medicinal properties, which might be beneficial to the human race.

As a drowning man is ſaid to catch at a ſtraw, ſo his lordſhip, as ſoon as he had in imagination made this important diſcovery, began to hope it would be uſeful to himſelf; and therefore commanded his ſervants to bottle off ſome of the water, in order to conſult his phyſicians upon this ſubject, as ſoon as he could get to London.

From whence the bottles were procured upon this occaſion, it is not now very eaſy to determine; but that Lord North ſent ſome part of his retinue back to Eridge for as many as were neceſſary, is very probable: at leaſt it is not

not likely they were to be had nearer, as at that time the whole of the ſurrounding country was rough woods, and uncultivated foreſts, without either houſe or inhabitant, except that which his Lordſhip had juſt quitted, and one little cottage very near the ſpring, in which lived the woman from whom his ſervants borrowed the wooden bowl, that his lordſhip drank out of when he taſted the water.

Be this as it will, ſome of the water was carried to London, the phyſicians were conſulted upon its virtues, and their judgment ſo perfectly coincided with Lord North's opinion, that they immediately left town to examine it on the ſpot. We have no particular account of the proceſs they uſed on this occaſion; but, as their ſole buſineſs was to diſcover the nature and properties of the water, they undoubtedly exerted all their ſkill, and tried all the experiments, the then infant ſtate of chemiſtry would admit of, to anſwer this important end: however, though we are unacquainted with the method they purſued, we are aſſured the reſult of their inquiries proved ſo favourable to this hitherto neglected ſpring, that they haſted back again to publiſh its valuable qualities, and to give their noble patient ſufficient en-

 courage-

couragement to try its efficacy, on the return of the vernal ſeaſon.

Accordingly, as ſoon as warm weather came on, and the roads were dry enough to render a journey practicable, lord North returned to Eridge to add the power of the water to the purity of the air, and try how far their united force would contribute to reſtore ſtrength and vigour to his ſhattered conſtitution. And, notwithſtanding the low condition to which he was by this time reduced, the ſucceſs he met with more than anſwered his moſt ſanguine expectations, inſomuch that, after about three months continuance in this * now delightful country, he returned to town ſo perfectly freed from all his complaints, that we cannot find he ever afterwards experienced the leaſt return of his diſorder, though we are aſſured he again gave himſelf up to all the gallantries of the age, and lived in the full indulgence of every pleaſure, till after the death of the accompliſhed prince Henry, when he † retired from the pedantic court of James to his country ſeat at Catlidge in Cambridgeſhire, where he lived more honourably upon the remains of his fortune, than ever

* Health makes the gloomy face of nature gay,
Gives beauty to the ſun, and luſtre to the day.

† Vide North's Lives—and Collins's Peerage.

ever he had done before, and died on the 16th of January, 1666, at the advanced age of eighty five.

It is from this recovery of an eminent nobleman from the verge of the grave, that we muſt date all the honours to which Tunbridge-wells has riſen. And, if we trace its ſtory to the head, it will appear, that only ſo trifling an incident, as the colour of the ground about the water of a wild unuſeful wood, has filled the deſert with inhabitants, and made plenty ſmile over the barren heath!

The ſtate of the place during the firſt thirty years after the diſcovery of the water.

LORD North, immediately on this almoſt miraculous re-eſtabliſhment of his health, by repairing to the court of his royal maſter, as was before obſerved, confirmed the rumour of his having diſcovered theſe valuable ſprings of medicinal water; of the excelleney of which, he was himſelf an inconteſtable evidence to all that had known him in his paſt languiſhing and deplorable condition, when his whole ſyſtem bore the appearance of an univerſal decay, and nature itſelf ſeemed haſtening to its period.

And, as this water had its riſe on the borders of Lord Abergavenny's eſtate, this very ſufficient proof of its merit induced that nobleman to intereſt himſelf in its preſervation, and with this view, to make the place as covenient as the nature of the country would admit of, to the many invalids that, it was reaſonably conjectured, would fly to it for a refuge from their various diſorders.

Lord Abergavenny was ſo much in earneſt in this important undertaking, that he came to

Eridge

Eridge on purpoſe to proſecute it with vigour; and, having obtained leave of Mr. Weller of Tunbridge, who was at that time lord of the manor, his lordſhip ordered the ground about the ſprings to be cleared from the ſurrounding rubbiſh, and ſent for an eminent naturaliſt from London, with whoſe aſſiſtance he diſtinguiſhed the two principal of ſeven ſeveral ſprings, for ſo many were at firſt diſcovered; and over theſe his lordſhip ordered wells to be ſunk, a ſtone pavement to be laid round, and the whole to be incloſed with wooden rails in a triangular form.

From henceforth this excellent water became a ſubject of public diſcourſe, and its vaſt efficacy, in removing many diſorders to which the human body is incident, was ſufficiently evidenced by the recovery of many who ventured on the trial; but the place itſelf continued ſeveral years in the ſame deſolate condition with only a very few inconſiderable improvements, ſuch as cutting down ſome of the wood, clearing off thoſe buſhes that were troubleſome to the water-drinkers, and making the road from Tunbridge-town more convenient than when it was leſs frequented.

This

This ſlow progreſs in embelliſhing the country was probably occaſioned by the uncertainty of its proving beneficial to the owners, as well as to the manners of the age, and the careleſsneſs of thoſe who attended merely for the relief that the waters afforded.

The owners, indeed, at that time, could have but little room to imagine that Tunbridge-Wells would ever become ſo eminent among the votaries of pleaſure as it now is. London had abſolutely engroſſed all the faſhionable amuſements to herſelf; gaming, intrigue, and every other diverſion invented to kill time, and gratify the reſtleſs paſſions of man, were confined to her precincts alone, and only exiſted during the winter months. The ſummer was a ſeaſon of languor and diſcontent. The people of faſhion had no agreeable retreats in which they could be together, and purſue thoſe amuſements which had employed them in the winter. The healthy flew to their country-ſeats, and paſſed their time in a wearifome ſolitude, amidſt a company whoſe ſtation and manners were incompatible with their own. The ſick, that reſorted to the mineral waters of Tunbridge, had only the recovery of health in view, and propoſed to themſelves no other

pleaſures

pleasures but such as were intirely rural. The company, thus assembled, formed no general society. The amusements of the gentry were few, confined, and selfish. The great brought with them all the haughtiness of nobility, and knew not how to let themselves down with grace. In short, delicacy, politeness, and elegant pleasures, were then but just budding forth from amidst the rubbish of Gothic barbarism, and, till these were grown to such a height as to be discernible amongst us, Tunbridge-Wells was not esteemed a place of pleasure, in which the people of fashion might depend upon being agreeably amused.

During this period, Tunbridge-town was the nearest place where any lodgings could be procured, and therefore was generally pretty much crouded in the water-drinking season, which usually began in May and continued to October.

But nothing very remarkable happened in this country from the first discovery of its springs, till the arrival of queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles the first, who was sent here by her physicians, for the re-establishment of her health, after the birth of prince Charles, which happened on the 29th of May, 1630.

It

It is ſaid of this young queen, who was the firſt of the royal family that ever honoured Tunbridge-Wells with their preſence, that, at this time, ſhe had perſonal charms which every day grew more lovely in the eyes of her huſband; and ſhe ſo well underſtood their proper uſe, as, after the death of Buckingham, intirely to captivate his heart; but, being a foreigner, and, upon her firſt arrival in England, ſlighted as ſhe imagined, by the king, and really ill-treated by the favourite, ſhe did not entertain any very advantageous prepoſſeſſions for the court; and, afterwards, the diſputes between Charles and his parliament gave her ſtill leſs room to love the people. This unhappy prejudice againſt the whole nation was ſufficient to awaken the ſpirit of a Medicis, and perhaps led her into ſome errors; it certainly was the foundation of much uneaſineſs to her during the future part of her life, and the probable cauſe of her diſreliſh for this kingdom, even after the reſtoration. However, notwithſtanding this, ſhe ever behaved with proper civility to all, and to ſome ſhe was moſt obligingly kind. In the days of her proſperity ſhe was fond of maſks and dancing, and in this place, which, on account of its rural aſpect, and truly romantic appearance, was well calculated for the purpoſe,

ſome

ſome were performed before her, that were extremely ingenious, as well as magnificent.

The queen continued about ſix weeks at the Wells, and dwelt in tents the whole time. Her camp was pitched upon Biſhop's-down common, and certainly diffuſed a ſplendor and magnificence over this wild country, to which it had hitherto been an abſolute ſtranger; but, except the honour of her preſence, and the clearing of the common to make room for her tents, the place received no benefit from her majeſty's ſucceſsful reſidence in it.

The curioſity of this gay young queen induced her one day to walk from the Well a little way into the county of Suſſex, where ſhe wandered about till, at length growing weary, ſhe ſat down on a bank beneath the ſhade of a ſpreading birch for refreſhment; and, when ſhe had ſufficiently reſted herſelf, ſhe aroſe, and ordered a ſtone to be placed there, as a memorial of her travels in that county, not then in the leaſt preſaging how many counties ſhe was in a few years afterwards deſtined to travel through. A complimentary latin inſcription was ingraved on this ſtone by one of

her majesty's attendants; but Oliver's rude partizans prevented its reaching posterity.—Such generally are the effects of licentious rebellion, which is at all times destructive of the arts, and attended with ruin and confusion.

The Queen's-stone, an alehouse in the road to Frant, is built where this monument was placed, and the sign *, which hung there till within these few years, was drawn from a view of the stone itself; but the inscription is no where preserved.

It is in remembrance of this queen, that Dr. Rowzee, in his little valuable treatise on this water, calls the place "Queen-Mary's-Wells;" but this name was never very generally accepted, and probably because it was the last given to it. At this distance of time it is a difficult matter to ascertain what name the place was at first distinguished by; but, as "Kilburne," in his "Survey of Kent," calls it "Frant-Wells," we may with some sort of assurance conjecture that this was the name originally given to the place by lord Abergavenny;

* It is now the sign of the Black Dog.

venny; and this conjecture muſt receive great additional ſtrength from conſidering, that his lordſhip's eſtate, in that neighbourhood, is ſituated in the pariſh of Frant.

But theſe names are now entirely loſt; and "Tunbridge-Wells" is univerſally adopted in their ſtead. It will be difficult to account for this more judiciouſly than Dr. Rowzee has already done, in his before-mentioned neglected treatiſe—"They have their name, ſays he, "from this town, as being the neareſt town in "Kent to them"—and, it may be added, as being the place where the company uſually reſided, when they firſt began to drink the water medicinally.

It ſeems reaſonable to imagine, as the ſprings riſe in "Speldhurſt-pariſh," no name would have more readily occurred, or been more juſtly applied, than that of "Speldhurſt-Wells;" but, as every thing of this kind depends upon capricious circumſtances, and is in itſelf of very little real importance, any attempt to change the name, which the place has ſo long been known by, and which is now ſo univerſally and ſo firmly eſtabliſhed by time

and cuſtom, cannot be more ineffectual than it would be ridicuious.

THE PROGRESS OF THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS AT TUNBRIDGE-WELLS TO THE PRESENT TIME.

THIRTY years after the diſcovery of the medicinal ſprings at Tunbridge-Wells, notwithſtanding the acknowledged uſefulneſs of the water, the vaſt reſort of company that every ſeaſon attended to partake of its benefits, and the great inconvenience of lodging at the diſtance of five miles from the ſpot, the country continued in the ſame rough, wild, uncultivated ſtate that it was left in by Lord Abergavenny; but, as a journey to Tunbridge became at length a ſcheme of pleaſure, and faſhion drew the young and the gay, as well as the diſeaſed and the old, the happy period arrived in which it could not longer remain in ſo deſolate a condition.

The firſt buildings erected in the vicinity of the ſprings were two little houſes, or rather cottages, one for the accommodation of the

ladies

ladies *, and the other for the gentlemen †. These buildings were so essentially necessary to the convenience of the company, that it is amazing they were so long delayed; nothing surely can paint in stronger colours the carelessness of the water-drinkers, and the want of foresight in the country people, than this neglect.

The latter of these two houses, which in the present age might perhaps be called a coffee-house, was then named the Pipe-office, because there the gentlemen usually met to converse over a pipe, and a dish of coffee, when they had drank their proper quantity of water.

It was customary for them to pay half-a-crown subscription to this house, for the use of pipes, the privilege of reading the news-papers, and other little conveniencies of the same kind, instead of which, the present coffee-house subscription is five shillings; but, thro' the prevalence of ever-varying fashion, pens, ink, and paper, are now substituted instead of the discarded pipe.

In

* Where Mr. Thomas Latter's garden now is.

† Mr. Kipping's surgeon and apothecary.

In two years more, a green bank, now paved and called the "Upper walk," was raiſed and leveled, and a double row of trees was planted on its borders to defend the company from the violence of the meridian ſun. Under theſe trees the tradeſmen uſually ſtood to diſpoſe of their goods in the hours of water-drinking, which was the only time they had to ſell their different ſorts of merchandize in, becauſe the company lodged at too great a diſtance to appear amongſt them above once a day.

The next year they began to build a few houſes for the accommodation of the company at Southborough * and at Ruſthall †.

Theſe

* Southborough is about two miles and a half from the Wells, and there are ſtill remaining two or three tolerable houſes at that place; though in general they are gone to decay, and have been bought off and rebuilt at Tunbridge-town and Tunbridge-Wells. At the time when parties raged very high, previous to the grand rebellion, and many years afterwards, the royaliſts lodged at this place, and the round-heads at Ruſthall: each party thus chuſing to be as far divided from each other in their dwellings, as they were in the diſpoſition of their minds.

† Ruſthall is about one mile from the Wells, and is ſo called from its ancient proprietors, whoſe names were Ruſt, one of whom

Theſe buildings were ſmall and few at firſt, rather ſuited to the circumſtances and apprehenſions of the builders, than to the company they were intended for; but the water was now in ſuch high reputation, that people gladly put up with any inconveniences on its account; and therefore, when theſe new houſes were full, would pay an extravagant price for cottages, huts, or any place to ſcreen them from the weather, rather than return home without partaking of the benefits thereof.

The elegant poet Waller has immortalized theſe ſprings, and ſufficiently evidenced their celebrity about this time, by alluding to their ſalutary properties in a charming little poem addreſſed to his Sacharifſa.

Complaining of the cruel indifference of this haughty beauty, the poet exclaims, in

 imita-

whom was mayor of Feverſham in the time of King Henry ſixth. The Preſbyterians wanted to build them a conventicle at this place, when it was in the moſt flouriſhing ſtate; but, though it was chiefly ſupported by that ſect, the landlord refuſed to ſell them a foot of land for that purpoſe, even at the moſt extravagant price; ſo inveterate was the hatred that Churchmen then bore to Preſbyterians.

imitation of Patroclus * in the ſixteenth Iliad, that " ſhe could not be a Sidney, nor ſpring from her mother ;" and then paſſionately goes on ;

" . - - - - - - to no human ſtock
" We owe this fierce unkindneſs; but the rock,
" That cloven rock produc'd thee, by whoſe ſide
" Nature, to recompence the fatal pride
" Of ſuch ſtern beauty, plac'd thoſe healing ſprings;
" Which not more help, than that deſtruction brings."

The quantity of water, uſually drank in this age, certainly deſerves our notice ; it is indeed ſo truly amazing and incredible, that I could not venture to mention it on any traditional reports ; but, as Dr. Rowzee, who lived at the time, and was himſelf an eye-witneſs of the fact, has given the detail in a book * which he wrote and publiſhed on the ſpot, it cannot very well be diſputed—take it then in his own words—

" Now

* O man unpitying! if of man thy race;
But ſure thou ſpring'ſt not from a ſoft embrace,
Nor ever am'rous hero gave thee birth,
Nor ever tender goddeſs brought thee forth.
Some rugged rocks hard entrails caus'd thy form,
And raging ſeas produc'd thee in a ſtorm,
A ſoul well ſuiting that tempeſtuous kind,
So rough thy manners, ſo untam'd thy mind.

† Entitled " The Queen's-wells, &c. by Lodowick Rowzee, M. D." Licenſed in 1637, but not publiſhed till 1672.

" Now for the whole quantity of water
" be taken in a morning, you ſhall ſee ſome
" that riſe very high, even to three hundred *
" ounces, according to Neſtor's years; yea, and
" ſome a greater quantity. And it is a thing that
" will make the very women there filling their
" glaſſes to laugh, to ſee ſome patients ſent
" thither by ignorant phyſicians, and appoint-
" to take ten or twelve ounces of water, and
" ariſe perhaps to twenty or thirty † ounces.
" But this may be a rule for a body of com-
" petent years and ſtrength, to begin at thirty ‡,
" forty, or fifty ounces, and to ariſe by de-
" grees, increaſing their quantity every day,
" to an hundred ‖, an hundred and fifty, or
" two hundred ounces, more or leſs, as they
" ſhall be able; and ſo again to decline and
" decreaſe by degrees, ending where they be-
" gan."

The trouble and confuſion in which the whole kingdom was involved, during the ten

* Eighteen pints three gils.

† About one pint three quarters.

‡ From almoſt two pints to ſomething more than three pints.

‖ From ſix pints and a half to twelve pints and a quarter

following years, ſufficiently accounts for the total neglect of any improvements in this place, throughout the whole of that bloody period; but when the nation became a little ſettled, and began to taſte the ſweets of returning peace, we find Tunbridge-Wells as much in vogue as before.

In a ſhort time after this, they had an aſſembly-room, a bowling-green, and other places appropriated to public diverſions at Ruſthall; and at Southborough, too, they had a bowling-green, a coffee-houſe, and a great number of good houſes for lodgings. But, notwithſtanding theſe improvements, the place ſtill continued in an infant ſtate. Its advantages were certainly much increaſed; but many things were wanting to make it convenient either to the company, or the inhabitants, and many more to compleat it for a place of public entertainment. The houſes were too far diſtant from the ſprings, and in bad weather the water was uſeleſs, becauſe there was no place of ſhelter to ſcreen the drinkers from its violence, while practiſing their neceſſary exerciſe. In this ſituation of things, if a ſudden ſhower happened to fall in the hours of attendance

upon

upon the well, it is easy to imagine the hurry and confusion it must occasion amongst the company exposed to it.

The poor tradesmen too had their full share of these distresses, and frequently must have had their goods greatly damaged, when accidents of this kind were not timely foreseen, and effectually guarded against.—But now we turn to better times.—

In the year 1664, the old rails, placed round the Wells by Lord Abergavenny, were displaced, and a strong stone wall built round them, instead of this wooden one. This work was executed at the expence of lord Muskerry, son to the second Earl of Clancarty, a brave young nobleman, who lost his life, the year after, fighting against the Dutch in Southwold-bay *. He was then lord of the manor, and his

 arms

* This naval engagement, so glorious to the English nation, was fought on the 3d of June, 1665. The English fleet, consisting of an hundred and fourteen ships, and twenty-two thousand men, was commanded by the Duke of York, Prince Rupert, and the Earl of Sandwich; and the Dutch, of nearly equal force, by the brave and experienced Admiral Obdam. At first things went very equally on both sides; but, about noon

arms * were placed in the arch of the gateway leading to the ſprings. This young nobleman renewed the ſtone pavement within the wall, placed a handſome baſon over the main ſpring, for

ſoon, Lord Sandwich, by an excellent manœuvre, fell into the center of the adverſe fleet, and, dividing them, began that confuſion which ſoon ended in their total defeat. The Dutch loſt on this occaſion at leaſt thirty ſhips, and ſix thouſand men; whereas the Engliſh, according to the beſt accounts, loſt only one ſhip and about five hundred men.

The Duke of York behaved with remarkable bravery during the whole action. He continued ſome hours in the thickeſt of the fire, and had ſeveral perſons of diſtinction killed on board his own ſhip, particularly Lord Falmouth, the king's unworthy favourite; the honourable Mr. Boyle, youngeſt ſon to the Earl of Burlington; and Lord Muſkerry, "a young "nobleman (ſays Clarendon *) of extraordinary courage and "expectation; who had been colonel of a regiment of foot "in Flanders, where he had done the king ſome eminent ſer-"vice, and had the general eſtimation of an excellent officer." Theſe three were all killed with one ſhot, ſo near to his royal highneſs, that his hand was wounded with one of their ſkulls, and he was covered over with their blood and brains. * Vide Clarendon's Life, pag. 266, and for further particulars of this eminent young nobleman, who appears to have been equally beloved by his ſovereign, his ſoldiers, and his tenants, ſee Clarendon's Hiſtory, vol. 3d, pages 168, and 475—to 477.

* Theſe arms were pulled down in the great law-ſuit between the lord and tenants of the manor, which commenced about the year 1726: and the arch itſelf was taken down when the Wells were repaired in the year 1743, or 1744. The arms are ſtill to be ſeen behind Pinchbeck's aſſembly-room on the Walks.

for the better reception of the water, and raiſed a convenient hall to ſhelter the dippers from the weather in the hours of attendance upon the company; from which there is alſo a projection extended to preſerve the well from any mixture with rain water.

It is very probable that lord Muſkerry thus particularly intereſted himſelf in adorning the place this ſeaſon, in compliment to his royal miſtreſs Queen Katharine, who was ſent to Tunbridge-Wells for her recovery from the effects of a dangerous fever, which in the preceding winter had reduced her to the verge of the grave.

Her majeſty was very ſucceſsful in the uſe of the water, which greatly raiſed its reputation, and conſequently encouraged the inhabitants to ſecond the generous efforts of their landlord, and to exert their utmoſt endeavours to render this neglected place both beautiful and convenient. And probably they would have made a much quicker progreſs in this deſign than they did, if Lord Muſkerry had been ſpared a few years longer; for this amiable young nobleman was not only perfectly be-

loved

loved by his tenants, but ſeemed inclined to carry his improvements ſo far, as to leave but little for his ſucceſſors to do after him. He was indeed remarkably fond of the place, and while he lived gave the greateſt encouragement to every public work; and though his death prevented the farther proſecution of his generous intentions, yet they were not wholly without effect, for his conduct had inſpired ſuch a ſpirit in the inhabitants, that from this period, houſes began to riſe in the woods, and gardens to overſpread the foreſt. In ſhort the paſſion for building was raiſed, and prevailed with inceaſing ardour in this country through a long ſeries of ſucceeding years.

In this ſpace the aſſembly-room * was brought home from Ruſthall to Mount-Ephraim, on which a bowling-green † was incloſed, a tavern ‡ was opened, and many lodging houſes were erected for the uſe of the company; but

* This aſſembly-room was in the houſe, called Mount-Ephraim-Houſe.

† The bowling-green is now a field on the north ſide of this houſe.

‡ This tavern became afterwards a lodging houſe, till purchaſed by Mrs. Johnſon, whoſe reſidence it now is.

but the triumph of this hill was ſhort, Mount-Sion * became a formidable rival, and quickly eclipſed its growing ſplendour; for when the ball-room, the bowling-green, and the lodging houſes aroſe ſo near the ſpring, a leſs convenient diſtance was generally avoided.

Thus in the courſe of a few years we find Tunbridge forſaken; Southborough and Ruſthall raiſed and ruined; Mount-Ephraim drooping; and Mount-Sion in the full bloom of proſperity; this laſt indeed not only rivalled, but deſpoiled her predeceſſors, and triumphantly transferred their ornaments to herſelf; for many houſes were brought from Southborough, Ruſthall, and Mount-Ephraim, to be rebuilt on Mount-Sion; and ſome, whole and entire as they were, were wheeled † on ſledges to be fixed in this new ſeat of favour.

In

* It was owing to the diſputes between the lord of the manor and the tenants, that this hill was preferred to Biſhop's Down Common.. MSS. Mathew Benge.

† Camfield's ſhop adjoining to the chapel, was in this manner brought down from Mount-Ephraim, with the band of muſic playing in it, and a jovial company drinking ſucceſs to the purchaſer.

In this period, the place called the Fish-ponds was opened for the amusement of the public; and as it was laid out in a pretty rural taste, and every way calculated for the entertainment of genteel company, while its managers continued carefully to maintain decency and strict decorum in its precincts, it was justly esteemed one of the principal scenes of diversion at Tunbridge: but when the vigilance of the managers was dropped, low company admitted, and indecencies encouraged, it soon became disreputable for any of the ladies to be seen there; which, has a natural consequence, very quickly reduced it to the ruinous condition in which it now remains.

In the year 1670, the Duke of York, his dutchess, and his two daughters, the princesses Mary and Anne, were at Tunbridge-Wells; and as his royal highness was remarkably pleased with the High-rocks, which he frequently visited, this occasioned the building of a little house there, and from that time it has been fashionable to make entertainments amidst those stupendous ruins of nature; which ever have been, and ever must be reckoned amongst the principal curiosities of the place.

These

These rocks are about a mile and a half from the Wells, and consist of a great number of rude eminencies adjoining to each other, several of which are above seventy feet high *. At many places there are surprizing cliffs and chasms that lead quite through the midst of them by narrow gloomy passages; which, together with their being situated among woods and forest, by the side of a gently murmuring stream, makes them afford one of the most romantic retired scenes in nature.

The curious philosophic enquirers who love to indulge themselves in conjecture, have imagined that the vale in which these rocks are situated was once the bed of a prodigious river, a conjecture which is considerably strengthened by the appearance of the whole country in general, and in particular is supposed to be almost demonstrable from some marks on the rocks themselves, which are said to be evident proofs of their having been the habitation of a particular species of fish.

When this river existed, if it ever did exist, none will venture to hazard even a conjecture;

 but

* The mean height of these rocks is about forty feet. BOWRA.

but all are united in opinion that it muſt be loſt by ſome violent concuſſion of nature: and, that the country has greatly ſuffered by an earthquake, in ſome former period, appears to be highly probable from the wonderful manner in which many of the rocks are thrown over each other, as well as from the cliffs and chaſms already mentioned; but after all it is hard to ſay, whether this whole phænomenon might not be produced by that general flood which changed the face of nature all over the globe.

But to return to our narrative, on the foreſt a little beyond the Rocks, a ſpring of water was diſcovered, which was paled in and called Adam's-Well. To what particular uſe this ſpring was then applied we have no particular account of. At preſent it is noted for curing all cutaneous ſcorbutic diſorders, and was lately purchaſed, with ſome lands contiguous, by Mr. Pinchbeck, maſter of one of the aſſembly-rooms, at Tunbridge-Wells, and a bath erected by him there for the benefit of the public, who owe great thanks to him.

The

The annual increaſe of company reſorting to the Wells, encouraged the lord of the manor about this time to think of improving his eſtate, by erecting ſhops and houſes on and near the walks; he therefore entered into an agreement with his tenants, and hired the herbage of the manor on a fifty years leaſe, at ten ſhillings per annum each tenant, and then began to build upon the green bank, and in every convenient ſituation near the ſprings.

And as Tunbridge-Wells was now become a populous and flouriſhing village, both with reſpect to its ſettled inhabitants, and the company that annually reſorted to it for health or pleaſure, the piety of our anceſtors made them think it neceſſary to build an houſe to the honour of God, leſt the diſtance from every church, together with the various amuſements, and continual diſſipations of a public place, ſhould entirely ſuſpend the attention due to religious duties.

For this purpoſe a ſubſcription was opened, in the year 1676, to raiſe a fund for building a chapel; which ſubſcription was continued, without intermiſſion, till 1684, when it a-

mounted to the ſum of 1385l. This was judged ſufficient to defray the expences of the work, and a chapel * was accordingly built on ground given for that purpoſe by lady Purbeck of Somerhill. This chapel was ſoon found by experience to be too ſmall for the company, and therefore it was afterwards enlarged, and beautified, by a ſecond ſubſcription, begun in the year 1688, and cloſed in 1696, the ſum of which amounted to 900l. †.

In this chapel divine ſervice is performed every day during the ſummer ſeaſon, and three times a week in the winter; and the clergyman is maintained by the voluntary ſubſcription of the company that frequent the place. This ſubſcription, at a medium, amounts to about 200l. per annum.

Adjoining to the chapel is a charity ſchool, for fifty or more poor boys and girls, who are there

* This chapel is dedicated to King Charles the martyr! Vide Willis's Survey, vol. 3. App. p. 18.

† There are two tables of the names of theſe ſubſcribers in the veſtry-room of the chapel, a copy of which the author was adviſed by ſome gentlemen to inſert; but finding upon enquiry that the number of names amounted to 2600, he was fearful of ſwelling the book too much.

there instructed in the useful, not to say necessary, articles of reading, writing, and common arithmetic, by the clerk for the time being. This school is supported by a contribution collected at the chapel doors, at two different times, in the season, when a charity sermon is preached each time, on the occasion.

From this school, every other year, one boy is clothed, and apprenticed to some seafaring trade, by the benefaction of William Strong, Esq; who by his last will, dated August, 1713, gave the annual rents of two little farms to this school, and the great school at Tunbridge, thus every year, alternately, to clothe and apprentice one scholar. It is also farther ordered by the will, that the surplus, if at any time any remains, shall be lent, upon goon security, to either of the boys for five years without interest.—Mrs. Mary Coulter by will, dated May, 1775, left 100l. in charity to the said school.

In 1687 a fire broke out in the house, now called the Flat-house, at the bottom of the walk, by which the life of one poor child was lost, and all the shops, and other buildings, so

lately

lately erected on the green bank, were intirely consumed. But this accident, however terrible in itself, was upon the whole not unserviceable to the place, because, like ancient Rome *, if small things may be compared with the greatest, it rose more glorious from its ashes, the buildings being afterwards more regularly planned, and better contrived, both for the convenience of the inhabitants, and the ornament of the walks; upon which, since this accident, an assembly-room, coffee-house, shops, and dwelling-houses have been erected in one continued line, and a convenient portico placed in front, and carried on from the upper end of the parade quite to the bottom, a few steps from which is the spring. The length of the Walk, from the upper-end to the steps going off at the bottom, leading to the spring, is an hundred seventy-five yards.

In the ever memorable year 1688, Princess Anne of Denmark was at Tunbridge-Wells, and

* "Rome, properly speaking, was at first but a sorry village, whereof even the principal inhabitants followed their own ploughs; and until it was rebuilt after the burning of it by the Gauls, did not deserve the name of a city. Such were the beginnings of the capital of the world!"

Hooke's Rom. Hist. vol. 1. p. 22.

and ſent her Gentleman Waiter, Colonel Sands, from thence to enquire after the health of the new-born ſuppoſed Prince of Wales; at which viſit of the Colonel's ſome remarkable circumſtances * are ſaid to have happened, which, if the ſtory may be depended upon, muſt greatly ſtrengthen the opinion that this pretended prince was an impoſition on the Britiſh nation.

This Princeſs ſeveral ſeaſons ſucceſſively honoured the place with her preſence, and was a great benefactreſs to it. She gave the baſon to the ſpring called the "Queen's-well" which is ſituated on the left hand as you enter the area, and diſtinguiſhed from the other by its iron bars.

In 1698, her Royal Highneſs brought her ſon the young Duke of Gloſter, with her to the Wells, and was made ſenſible of the utility of paving the walks by a fall which he got, in his play with other children, juſt after ſome rain had increaſed the natural ſlipperineſs of the ſoil ſurrounding the ſprings: and at her going away ſhe left money for this purpoſe in the hands of one of the principal inhabitants, with

* Tindal's Rapin, vol. II. p. 767.

with an injuction to get the work completed againſt the enſuing ſummer; but he, vainly flattering himſelf the princeſs would viſit the place no more, knaviſhly delayed the work ſo long that her Royal Highneſs returned to the Wells before any progreſs was made in it. This neglect very much diſguſted the Princeſs, who thereupon inſtantly quitted the place, and never deigned to enter it again; but, before ſhe went, ſhe took effectual methods to have the pavement carried on with proper diligence, by deputing a ſuperintendent, who never ſuffered the work to be intermitted till it was intirely finiſhed.

On the acceſſion of this Princeſs to the throne of Great-Britain, the inhabitants of Tunbridge-Wells, deſirous of tranſmitting to poſterity ſome teſtimony of the ſenſe they retained of the many favours conferred upon them by her Majeſty, planted the "Queen's-grove" on the common, for a growing monument of gratitude to their royal and generous benefactreſs.

In 1708, the Cold-bath at Ruſthall was built by Mr. James Long at a very conſiderable ex-

expence. This bath is eſteemed equal to any in the kingdom, being moſt plentifully ſupplied with the fineſt rock water from the neighbouring hills. The bath was at firſt adorned with amuſing water-works, and had a handſome and convenient houſe over it, in every room of which was ſomething curious, calculated to divert and ſurpriſe the company. The ground and gardens belonging to the bath were elegantly laid out, and embelliſhed with fountains, and other ornaments ſuitable to the place; in ſhort, the whole was moſt completely diſpoſed for a ſcene of amuſement. But all this is now gone to decay through the want of management, and the neglect of the proprietors, who have ſuffered the houſe to fall, and the gardens to lie waſte and wild; but the bath itſelf is well preſerved, and lately a plain unornamented building has been raiſed over it, which, though it retains none of the beauties of the former elegant ſtructure, is perhaps full as uſeful as the old one.

Within theſe very few years, another Cold-bath has been erected, about a furlong from the walks, which, on account of its nearneſs to the Wells, and its being neatly fitted up in

a pretty retired ſituation, will probably continue in uſe, though it certainly cannot in any reſpect be compared to the ancient bath.

About the year 1726, the Lord of the Manor's building leaſe expired, and as the tenants juſtly imagined they had a right to ſome compenſation for the loſs of the herbage that was covered by his houſes, they claimed a ſhare in the buildings. This occaſioned a tedious law-ſuit between the lord and the tenants, which, after a prodigious expence, was finally determined in favour of the latter, who were adjudged to have a juſt claim to a third part of the buildings, then erected on the eſtate, for their rights of herbage: whereupon all the ſhops and houſes on this eſtate were divided into three equal lots, of which the tenants were to draw one, and the other two were to remain with the lord; and, luckily for the tenants, they happened to draw the middle lot, which included the aſſembly-room on the walk, and has turned out the beſt of the three. After this the landlord and tenants entered into a long agreement, to reſtrain and prevent the increaſe of buildings on the manor, which was confirmed and eſtabliſhed by an act

of

of parliament, that passed the royal assent on the 29th of April, 1740.

His Royal Highness Frederick, the late Prince of Wales, and her Royal Highness his consort, were at Tunbridge-Wells in 1739.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Amelia has frequently honoured the place with her presence, and, particularly, was there in 1762, when his Royal Highness William Duke of Cumberland was also there.

Their Royal Highnesses, the Dukes of York and Glocester, were at Tunbridge-Wells about the middle of September, 1765. On their arrival they were welcomed by a triple discharge of eighteen pieces of cannon, and in the evening the walks were most splendidly illuminated, upon which occasions they always make a magnificent appearance.

Their Royal Highnesses continued there two nights, viewed the High-rocks and other beautiful environs of the Wells, entered, with that noble affability so peculiar to their illustrious family, into all the amusements of the place,

and, notwithſtanding the ſeaſon's being ſo fa declined, ſeemed at their departure to be much pleaſed with their expedition, and the loyal reception they met with.

The place itſelf is now in a very flouriſhing ſtate, with a great number of good houſes for lodgings, and all neceſſary accommodations for company; its cuſtoms are ſettled, its pleaſures regulated, its markets and all other conveniencies fixed, and the whole very properly adapted to the nature of a place, which is at once deſigned to give health and pleaſure to all its viſitants.

Of the AIR *of* TUNBRIDGE-WELLS.

SOME account of the air of Tunbrldge-Wells will certainly be eſteemed neceſſary to render this work tolerably compleat, becauſe as a public place reſorted to by invalids for the recovery and re-eſtabliſhment of health, nothing can be of greater importance than a knowledge thereof.

Air is undoubtedly ſuch a neceſſary inſtrument of life, that without it we cannot ſubſiſt for more than a few moments; and it is very obvious to every reflecting mind, that, where it is impregnated with undue mixtures, it muſt of courſe produce, or aggravate diſeaſes: from whence it follows that it is a duty highly incumbent on all who ſtudy the preſervation of that health they now enjoy, and ſtill more ſo upon thoſe who would recover that which is loſt, to make choice of ſuch a ſituation as affords the freeſt and moſt equable air, where it is leaſt impregnated with the noxious effluvia of ſubterraneous exhalations, or loaded with the vapours continually ariſing from a humid ſoil: and where, on the other hand, it is not

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ſo dry and attractive as too faſt to imbibe the attenuating lymph exhaled from the blood; but rather, where the nature of the ſoil, the happy ſituation of the place, and the ſurer teſt of experience, all unitedly evidence its wholeſomeneſs.

And in all theſe reſpects, impartially ſpeaking, the air of Tunbridge-Wells moſt certainly excels. The country is not ſo low and moiſt as to be ſubject to thick fogs, or any marks of a vapourous air; neither is it raiſed to ſuch an exalted height as to have its atmoſphere too much rarified, or be too much expoſed to the bleak northern or eaſtern winds; from the latter eſpecially it is well defended by a long range of high hills. The ſoil of the country in general is tolerably fruitful, and even the moſt barren parts of it are eaſily cultivated, which evidences that the air, though naturally dry, is not too ſharp and rigid for the human conſtitution; and the multitude of ſweet herbs, as wild thyme, &c. with which the whole country is overſpread, affords a ſolid proof of its ſweetneſs and purity.

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On the little hills of Mount Ephraim and Mount-Sion, it is remarkable that a gentle fragrant breeze unceasingly prevails, through all the summer months; which, in the hottest weather, generally keeps them mild and temperate. And it is acknowledged by every author who has occasionally mentioned the place, as well as by those who have professedly wrote on the subject, that this air is extremely benign, pure and wholesome.

And in all probability the air of Tunbridge-Wells has the additional advantage of being, in some degree, impregnated with the effluvia of those healthful ingredients with which the water so eminently abounds; and, if this is the case, it must of course not only render the fruit, the herbs, and the other aliments of the country, more wholesome, but also by this means, as well as by the suction of the lungs, and regular drinking, convey the salutary properties of the water into the minutest vessels of the body.

But, be this as it will, it is a certain fact, attested by continually repeated experience, that aged people and all persons of a relaxed

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and enfeebled conſtitution do, almoſt immediately upon coming into this country, perceive the happy effects of its air, by an invigoration of their bodily powers, and an additional ſprightlineſs of mind, enabling them to communicate, and to receive every ſocial pleaſure with an unuſual ſatisfaction, never known in the denſe fuliginous air of London, or in the loaded atmoſphere of damp and vapourous ſituations. And this is ſuch a convincing teſtimony of the beneficial nature of the air of Tunbridge-Wells, as cannot fail of very ſtrongly recommending it to thoſe unhappy valetudinarians, whoſe relaxed fibres loudly call for its aſſiſting influence to renew their original elaſticity, and to brace them up for future action,

Of the MEDICINAL WATER *at* TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

THE next thing that naturally preſents itſelf to our obſervation is the water, to which the country we are treating of owes all its diſtinction.

The whole neighbourhood of Tunbridge-Wells abounds with ſprings of mineral water; but, as the properties of all are nearly the ſame, only thoſe two which, at their firſt diſcovery, were adjudged the beſt, are held in any particular eſtimation.

Theſe two wells are incloſed with a handſome triangular ſtone wall; and, within this wall, are ſurrounded by a well paved area, into which you deſcend, by a few ſteps, thro' a noble gateway. Over the ſprings are placed two convenient baſons * of Portland ſtone, with perforations at the bottom through which they receive the water, and with an opening

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* One of theſe baſons was given by Queen Anne, and the other by the Lord of the Manor.

on the edge to diſcharge the overflowings, which are carried to the neighbouring brook by a little drain cut in the pavement.

The water itſelf at the ſpring is extremely clear and bright, without any ſort of colour: its taſte is pleaſingly ſteely, it has hardly any perceptible ſmell, though ſometimes, in a denſe air, its ferruginous exhalations are very diſtinguiſhable: and, in point of heat, it is, invariably temperate, let the atmoſphere be in whatever ſtate it will; for this is one of thoſe ſprings which lie ſo deep in the bowels of the earth, that it can neither be affected by the ſcorching ſun-beams of the ſummer, nor the ſevereſt froſts of the winter.

When it is firſt taken up in a large glaſs, its particles continue at reſt, till it is warmed to nearly the heat of the atmoſphere, then a few airy globules begin to ſeparate themſelves and adhere to the ſides of the veſſel; and, in a few hours more, a light copper-coloured ſcum begins to ſwim on the ſurface; after which an ochreous ſediment ſettles at the bottom. The ſcum of this water is really an object of curioſity when detached from the water itſelf, which

which is eaſily done by introducing a piece of writing paper under it: the paper, when dry, appears to be gilt; and when examined thro' a microſcope, reſembles a piece of rich embroidery ornamented with ſtuds of gold.

Long continued rains ſometimes give the water a milky appearance, but do not otherwiſe ſenſibly affect it.

From the experiments of different phyſicians it appears that the component parts of this water are—ſteely particles, marine ſalts, an oily matter, an ochreous ſubſtance, ſimple water, and a volatile vitriolic ſpirit, too ſubtile for any chemical analyſis.—In weight it is, in ſeven ounces and a quarter, four grains lighter than the German Spa, and ten grains lighter than common water: and it requires five drops of Oleum Sulphuris or Elixir Vitrioli to a quart of water to preſerve its virtues at a diſtance from the ſpring; but to drink it in perfection recourſe muſt always be had to the fountain-head.

The water is ſaid to be an impregnation of rain in ſome of the neighbouring eminences,

which, in common with moſt other elevated ſituations in theſe northern parts of the globe, providentially abound in iron mineral, and where, by a nice natural chemiſtry infinitely ſuperior to the utmoſt efforts of art, the water is further enriched with the marine ſalts, and all thoſe valuable ingredients whereby it is conſtituted a light pure chalybeate, which inſtantly pervades the moſt remote receſſes of the human frame, warms and invigorates the relaxed conſtitution, reſtores the weakened fibres to their due tone and elaſticity, removes every obſtruction to which the minuter veſſels of the body are liable, and becomes thereby adapted to moſt cold chronical diſorders, lowneſs of ſpirits, weak digeſtions, and nervous complaints.

But that I may the leaſt miſtake, in a matter I am not qualified to diſcuſs without borrowed light, I muſt now ſummon to my aid the moſt diſtinguiſhed of thoſe phyſicians who have wrote upon this ſubject.

And here I cannot but lament it as a public misfortune, that no regular phyſician has conſtantly reſided in the place to regiſter caſes;

and

and that no gentleman of the faculty who has of late years occaſionally attended it in the ſeaſon, has thought himſelf ſufficiently intereſted in the ſucceſs of the water, to take the trouble of communicating the full reſult of his particular experience *.

But, notwithſtanding this neglect, we are not without many authentic teſtimonies of the efficacious effects of this water, in the cure of numerous diſeaſes incident to human nature, in the writings of learned phyſicians, as well as in the experience of multitudes who are annually benefited thereby.

Doctor Lodowick Rowzee, who many years attended the place, has profeſſedly wrote "a treatiſe upon the nature and virtues of Tunbridge water;" and, from the experience which he acquired in his cloſe attendance at the Wells, has judiciouſly pointed out a great number

* If any phyſician ſhould hereafter reſide on the ſpot, or for many years ſucceſſively attend the place, it is to be hoped he will in a great meaſure remove the cauſe of this complaint, by keeping an hiſtory of his own practice; which probably may in time be of eſſenital ſervice, towards forming an experimental hiſtory of the nature and properties of Tunbridge-Wells Water.

number of diſeaſes in which it is extremely erviceable.

This gentleman moſt ſtrongly recommends Tunbridge-Wells Water as an effectual deobſtruent, which very ſucceſsfully opens all manner of obſtructions, however ſtubborn and obſtinate they may be; and conſequently is of eſſential ſervice in all diſeaſes proceeding from this fruitful ſource, ſuch as tedious agues, the black and yellow jaundice, ſchirrus of the ſpleen, ſcurvy, green-ſickneſs, fluor albus, and in the menſes deficient or redundant; in the firſt by opening obſtructions, in the ſecond by cooling the blood when too hot and fluxile, and by corroborating the organs of that excretion when too much weakened.

He alſo ſays that Tunbridge-Wells-Water ſcowers and cleanſes all the urinary paſſages, and therefore is good againſt the gravel and ſtone in the kidnies, the ureters, or the bladder, particularly in the beginning attacks of this diſorder, before the earthy parts of the urine are ſettled and concreted in the ſlimy humours which are the firſt foundation of this diſeaſe: and he farther maintains, that from

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its aſtringent and healing properties, it is an effectual remedy for all inward ulcers, eſpecially for thoſe of the liver, the kidnies, and the bladder; and in this opinion of mineral ſteely waters Dr. Rowzee is ſupported by "Scribonius Largus" and by "Archigenes" in "Ætius", who have ſtrongly recommended their uſe in the like caſes. This doctor alſo ſays they are good in bloody urine, and in diſſolving and waſhing away a kind of clammy phlegmatic excrement, ſometimes bred in the bladder, and which ſo exactly mimics all the ſymptoms of the ſtone as to deceive the moſt experienced.

He alſo aſſerts it is good aguinſt inveterate dyſenteries and all other fluxes of the belly, that it extinguiſhes all inward inflammations, and hot diſtempers, without the leaſt hurting the ſtomach by its coldneſs; but on the contrary ſo greatly corroborates and ſtrengthens it, that in ſome it provokes too great an appetite. It is alſo good he ſays in the cholic proceeding from tough tartareous phlegm, in vomitting, the hiccup, and in worms; likewiſe in the gonorrhœa ſimplex et venerea, in caruncles of the urethra, as being of a remark-

able

able drying faculty; and in paralytic diſorders a tendency to apoplexy, and lethargic complaints, as ſtrengthening the brain and origin of the nerves; and from the ſame cauſe of remarkable efficacy in hypochondriacal diſorders. And to this he adds, that, in external uſe, it helps ſore eyes, red pimples, and other cutaneous infirmities, "and I muſt not forget, ſays "the doctor, in behalf of the women, that "there is nothing better againſt barrenneſs, "and to make them fruitful, if other good "and fitting means, ſuch as their ſeveral caſes "may require, be duly joined with the water."

That eminent able phyſician, Dr. Allen, is another who has given public teſtimony in favour of the water of Tunbridge-Wells, and particularly enumerated many of the caſes in which, in the courſe of his practice, he found it an efficacious remedy. I tranſcribe his account of the medicinal uſes of this water from "Rutty's Synopſis," with only a trifling variation of expreſſion in the firſt article, where his perplexed manner has rendered an alteration neceſſary:

Dr.

" Dr. Allen obſerves—

" I. It is an effectual remedy in obſtruc-
" tions of the glands of the meſentery, where-
" in beſides the ſigns of chylous excrement
" and rejection of food an hour or two after
" eating, the patient has no complaint neither
" of want of appetite, diſcernible fever, nor
" any other diſorder, until the diſeaſe is con-
" tinued ſo long as to induce a cough, a
" fever, a want of reſt, and a loſt of fleſh.
" In this caſe, of which there are not a few
" inſtances, Tunbridge-Wells-Water hath not
" failed thoſe who have tried it.

" II. This water hath proved alſo an effec-
" tual remedy in recent dropſies, in thoſe
" whoſe conſtitution is broken by trouble,
" and in the phlegmatic, whoſe blood wants
" invigorating. And its effects are no leſs con-
" ſiderable in diſorders of the ſtomach, and
" particularly exquiſite pains, eſpecially con-
" vulſive ones, in the hypochondriacal and
" flatulent cholic.

" III. A painful tumour, at the pit of the
" ſtomach, of many years ſtanding, and re-
" puted ſchirrus, was removed by this water.

" A fistula, of many years standing, was ef-
" fectually cured in six weeks by the sole
" drinking of it. More than one ulceration
" of the kidnies hath been cured thereby.
" And a gentlewoman, who for many years
" had never escaped an assault of a periodical
" fever and cough in October, was freed there-
" from by drinking this water."

" Dr. Slare, continues Rutty, assures us this
" water is an effectual remedy in obstinate
" and inveterate diarrhœas.

" Dr. Linden esteems it of the most singu-
" lar efficacy in curing the remains of the
" venereal disorder: in which case, he says,
" he has known it of such eminent service,
" that he holds it almost necessary for all who
" have gone through a salivation, to close
" with drinking the chalybeate water; which
" is sovereignly good to recover and strengthen
" the tone of the weakened and injured ves-
" sels, and to extirpate the remains of mer-
" cury lurking in the body after the cure of
" this disorder."

And

And here it would be an unpardonable neglect not to mention one virtue in this water, which, though more univerſally acknowledged than all the others, and moſt inconteſtably eſtabliſhed on the firm foundation of frequently repeated experience, has too generally been omitted by the writers upon this ſubject. I mean its prolific qualities, of which every ſeaſon furniſhes renewed and often ſurprizing proofs. It has indeed an amazing efficacy in ſtrengthening, and cleanſing the generative organs, and removing the complaint of unfruitfulneſs, eſpecially when it proceeds from a cold, moiſt, and relaxed habit of body, too weak for the purpoſes of conception, whether it is occaſioned by the irregular manner of living, or derived from the original conſtitution of the patient. This water has been ſo wonderfully ſucceſsful, in almoſt innumerable caſes of this kind, that, if it had no other virtue, this alone would be ſufficient to render it famous, and to make it invaluable: but that, beſides this, it is in the higheſt degree ſerviceable in all other female complaints, and all the diſeaſes pointed out by the forecited phyſicians, when it is properly taken and judiciouſly aſſiſted, is a matter of fact ſo well atteſted and

confirmed by ſuch a long ſeries of experience, that it will not now admit of the leaſt ſhadow of diſpute amongſt men of candour and judgment.

Some

Some General Observations *on the* Diet *proper for* Patients, *and on the* Time *and* Manner *of drinking the* Medicinal Waters *of* Tunbridge-Wells.

WHEN all thoſe virtues mentioned in the preceding chapter are aſcribed to Tunbridge-Wells-Water, we muſt not by any means be underſtood to ſuppoſe that the water alone, without regular management and ſuitable aſſiſtance, is capable of curing theſe numerous diſorders. No,—as well may you expect to have an houſe built by throwing the materials into an heap, as to have a diſeaſe removed by an irregular and injudicious uſe of any mineral water whatſoever. It is therefore neceſſary, in order to inſure all the ſucceſs that may be reaſonably expected from an application to this noble remedy, that patients ſhould be regular in their living and exerciſes, and well adviſed as to the manner of preparing themſelves, the time of drinking, and the quantity which they may be able to bear without injury to their conſtitutions.

As

As to living, temperance in eating, drinking, ſleep, and exerciſe, is ſo obviouſly neceſſary to every valetudinarian, that none can have any room to think of recovering health without it. In order therefore to give the water fair play, it is proper to uſe moderate exerciſe, and eſpecially gentle riding, during the whole time of drinking it; to be temperate in ſleep, and leave the bed tolerably early in the morning; to baniſh care and melancholy from the mind, and encourage mirth and good humour; to live with regularity on wholeſome food; to uſe good well-baked bread, made of pure wheat; and ſuch kinds of meat as yield good nouriſhment and are eaſy of digeſtion; avoiding rich ſauces and a variety of diſhes, and eating with ſome reſerve, enough to ſatisfy nature, but not to encourage gluttony.

As to the time of drinking the water, it is generally ſuppoſed, that all chalybeate waters are in the higheſt perfection from May to October, and that they are moſt ſerviceable in warm and dry weather; but it muſt not be underſtood, that their virtues are ſo abſolutely confined to one ſeaſon, as to be uſeleſs in all

others,

others; on the contrary, it is an allowed fact, that in hard froſt the Tunbridge-Water is ſtronger than at any other time, becauſe then the evaporation of the volatile ſpirit is retarded, and the water conſequently rendered more penetrating and active by its detention, from whence ariſes an increaſe of efficacy in many caſes.

And here it may be proper to obſerve, that it is a great miſtake of thoſe writers, who aſſert—" that the water is at ſuch times intol-" lerably cold to the throat, mouth, and ſto-" mach, ſo that it muſt chill the drinker be-" fore its ſpiritous parts can come into " action*." In contradiction to this unfair repreſentation, I refer to what has been already ſaid, viz. " that the water is invaribly " temperate, let the atmoſphere be in what-" ever ſtate it will;" and, as this is ſo far from being peculiar to Tunbridge-Water, that it is the well-known property of almoſt all perennial ſprings, it is the more ſurprizing that any gentleman acquainted with the ſubject ſhould fall into ſuch an error. The water in the baſon may indeed be affected with very ſevere

* Vide Lucas on Water.

frosts, and sometimes, in extremely hard weather, it has been frozen; but, on emptying this away, the fresh water that arises will be much warmer than the external atmosphere, and may be drank with pleasure at any time; or, if it should be esteemed too cold for some stomachs, the evil is easily remedied, by keeping a little hot water always at hand to pour into the glass just as it is put to the lips, which, if managed with tolerable quickness, may be done without danger of evaporating the mineral spirit.

It is therefore on good ground, that the doctors Rouzee and Linden have conjectured, that this water would be as good and efficacious in frosty weather, as in the heat of summer; and that, if the nobility and gentry, who attend the public business in town during the winter season, would in their vacations visit Tunbridge-Wells, situated as it is at an easy distance, and drink the water in clear weather, it is reasonable to conclude it would be the means of prolonging many a valuable life, and of preserving an uninterrupted state of health, by removing those obstructions of

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the minuter veſſels, which a full diet, ſedentary life, and much application of mind, in the leſs pure air of a great and populous city too readily occaſion.

But, as the ſummer is the only ſeaſon at preſent employed in drinking this water, we will return to that happy period; and then it is ſaid, that the beſt time of day for this purpoſe is ſoon in the morning, before the ſun has reached any great height, or at leaſt before it has attained force enough to raiſe the mineral ſpirit, and ſo that the quantity preſcribed may be drank, and tolerably well digeſted before breakfaſt. And, beſides the advantages reſulting from a light ſtomach, riſing in a morning, and the early exerciſe preſcribed by this method, tend greatly to exhilarate the ſpirits, and thus every way add to the natural efficacy of the water. But, uſeful, and indeed neceſſary, as this method is in moſt caſes, it is not without its diſadvantages to ſome people, and eſpecially on their firſt coming to the place; for the Tunbridge-Wells water, of itſelf, cauſes an unuſual ſleepineſs in many perſons, which cannot but be increaſed by early hours, in thoſe who have uſually indulged a

contrary habit; however, a ſparing uſe of the waters at firſt, a little moderate exerciſe, and agreeable diverting company, will ſoon remove this complaint, without any medicinal aſſiſtance; and this is a complaint which muſt be obviated as ſoon as can be, and ſtrenuouſly reſiſted by any body who expects to receive benefit from the water, becauſe ſleeping, before the water is properly diſcharged from the blood, occaſions head-achs, and other diſorders, which may furniſh cauſe to new maladies.

As to the quantity of water to be drank each day, there can be no general rules given, but what muſt be expoſed to innumerable objections, becauſe it muſt be ſuited to every one's particular caſe, and probably will require to be increaſed and diminiſhed, according to the different ſtages and variations of the complaint. It is therefore neceſſary that this ſhould be regulated by ſome underſtanding phyſician, who is well acquainted with the nature of the water, and the conſtitution and diſorder of the patient.

There certainly is a very wide difference, with reſpect to quantity, between the uſage of

preſent age, and of the time when the ſprings were firſt diſcovered; but, whether this alteration in practice be for the advantage of the diſeaſed, or not, it would be great preſumption in me to pretend to determine; however, from ſome recent and remarkable inſtances that have happened to fall under my own obſervation, I muſt confeſs I am prejudiced in favour of a more copious quantity than now is generally drank. But, if in the preſent practice too little is generally allowed, it is very highly probable that our anceſtors ran as much into the contrary extreme, when they preſcribed ſix, and even nine quarts in a morning, for a cuſtomary doſe. It was indeed neceſſary to riſe early, and to work hard, to digeſt ſo large a quantity of water before breakfaſt.

The ſame that is above ſaid of the quantity, may alſo be applied to the time of continuing to drink this water, ſince it is equally neceſſary that this ſhould be determined in conformity to the different caſes of patients by the judgment of phyſicians: in ſome perhaps a few weeks may ſuffice, in others months are not enough, and with ſome it may be neceſſary to attend it year after year to perfect a cure.

Here I cannot refrain from inſerting an obſervation, originally made by doctor Rowzee and adopted by ſome later writers, viz. that it is neceſſary, in order to prevent the bad effects that may ariſe from prematurely taking or forſaking ſo powerful and active a medicine as theſe ſpirituous ferruginous waters are, to begin cautiouſly with a ſmall quantity, to riſe by degrees to the proper pitch, and, having continued there as long as is judged expedient, then to decline and decreaſe by the ſame ſlow degrees and leave off at the quantity begun with.

By thus drinking the Tunbridge-Wells-Water, by living temperately, and by entering chearfully into all the amuſing pleaſures of the place, many, in time paſt, have recovered their healths, and re-eſtabliſhed their conſtitutions, who were in all appearance haſtening to their graves; and it is not to be reaſonably doubted, but that the ſame methods will, through the bleſſing of providence, be attended with equally happy effects, to the lateſt poſterity.

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